

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 8 is amended. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Shapiro in the September 23, 2008 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected for allegedly being unclear. Claim 1 calls for a method of electronically managing a payment media exception processed from a payment media originating source by a payment media handling apparatus. As discussed during the personal interview, claim 5 further defines the payment media exception that is managed according to the method of claim 1. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 5 are clear.

Claim 8 was rejected for allegedly not being clear as to what is "instructing" the user. As agreed during the personal interview, claim 8 has been amended to call for a method comprising the step of giving instructions to the user, which are given by the payment media handling apparatus.

Also, during the personal interview, the Examiner asserted that a portion of claim 1 is written as an alternative form of Markush group, and that use of a Markush group precludes further optional language. Applicants respectfully disagree because the only recognized format for a Markush group is "selected from the group consisting of A, B and C." See MPEP 2173.05(h). None of the claims contain this format.

Further, during the personal interview, the Examiner asserted that claim 12 is unclear, and therefore subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because the claim 12 allegedly calls for rejecting the payment media and then accepting the payment media.

Applicants respectfully disagree because claim 12 calls for "processing the at least one of the payment media determined to be unsuitable" and then "accepting a face value of the at least one unsuitable payment media to be used in a value balance process" (emphasis added). The claim calls for accepting a face value, not accepting the payment media. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 12 should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dobbins, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0063034, in view of Jones, U.S. Patent No. 6,128,402. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for processing the at least one of the payment media determined to be unsuitable based on ... instructions provided by a supervisor in a retail store. Claims 16 and 19 call for similar features. The Office Action, on page 4, alleges that Dobbins discloses these features. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Office Action alleges that Dobbins at paragraph [0049] discloses these features because "many retailers require that all \$50 and \$100 bills be dropped directly and immediately into the electronic safe." Applicants respectfully assert that the portion of Dobbins quoted in the Office Action relates to processing suitable currency. That is, the portion of Dobbins cited by the Office Action discusses rules for currency that has been accepted. The \$50 and \$100 bills are accepted by retailers and then are processed using different acceptance rules. Bills that are accepted using different rules does not mean the bills are unsuitable as called for in claim 1.

Further, during the personal interview, the Examiner asserted that "unsuitable" is a relative term. Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 1 calls for determining whether ... the payment media is in a condition unsuitable to be accepted by the payment media handling

apparatus. A payment media handling apparatus will accept payment media if the payment media is suitable. If the payment media is unsuitable, the payment media handling apparatus will not accept the payment media. However, the way in which the payment media handling apparatus accepts or does not accept the payment media does not make "unsuitable" a relative term.

Applicants respectfully assert that Dobbins also fails to disclose a group of rules stored in a lookup table, instructions provided by an user initiating the payment media acceptance operation, and instructions provided by an entity other than a retail store.

Applicants respectfully assert that Jones fails to overcome the deficiencies of Dobbins.

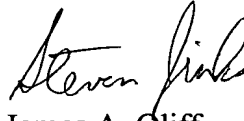
Claims 2-15, 17, 18 and 20 depend from, and are patentable with one of independent claims 1, 16 and 19, as well as for the additional features they recite. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-20 were provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of copending Application No. 10/524,109; claims 1-19 and 21 of copending Application No. 10/524,110; claims 1-19 and 24 of copending Application No. 10/524,111; claims 1-18, 23 and 35 of copending Application No. 10/524,112; claims 1-7, 9-10 and 12-14 of copending Application No. 10/933,289; and claims 1-9, 11, 13-33, 35 and 37-45 of copending Application No. 11/117,563. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be held in abeyance until the final content of the claims has been determined.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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